Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9.   (canceled).

Claim 10.   (currently amended) A method for processing data structured in frames, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

selecting a particular source-code mode from a plurality of predefined source-code modes;

determining the selected particular source-code mode via at least one mode bit ~~contained~~ included in a frame;

performing channel-coding in the frame, independently of the selected particular source-code mode, on a first portion of the data bits ~~and~~ together with the at least one mode bit ~~contained~~ included within the frame; and

performing source-coding in the frame, according to the selected particular source-code mode, on a second portion of data bits ~~contained~~ included in the frame.

Claim 11.   (currently amended) A method for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 10, wherein the step of selecting the particular source-code mode includes matching the particular source-code mode to at least one of a quality of a transmission channel and a network load.

Claim 12.   (currently amended) A method for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 10, wherein the at least one mode bit ~~contains~~ includes at least one of signaling information and information for describing reception quality.

Claim 13.   (currently amended) A method for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 10, the method further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

using convolution codes for the step of channel coding; and

selecting the first portion of the data bits as a function of a length of the convolution code.

Claim 14.   (currently amended) A method for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 10, the method further comprising ~~the step of~~:

using the first portion of the channel-coded data bits for channel decoding of the at least one mode bit.

Claim 15.   (previously presented) A method for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 14, wherein the first portion of the data bits is channel-coded consistently for different code modes in the process of decoding.

Claim 16.   (previously presented) A method for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one mode bit is channel-decoded only once.

Claims 17-18. (canceled).

Claim 19.   (currently amended): A system for processing data structured in frames, comprising:

a coding apparatus that selects a particular <u>source</u>-code mode from a plurality of predefined <u>source</u>-code modes, and determines the selected particular <u>source</u>-code mode via at least one mode bit ~~contained~~ <u>included</u> in a frame;

a processing apparatus that performs channel-coding in the frame, independently of the selected particular source-code mode, on a first portion of the data bits ~~and~~ <u>together with</u> the at least one mode bit ~~contained~~ <u>included</u> within the frame, and performs source-coding in the frame, according to the selected particular source-code mode, on a second portion of data bits ~~contained~~ <u>included</u> in the frame.

Claim 20.   (previously presented) The system for processing data structured in frames as claimed in claim 19, wherein, via the processor unit, the first portion of the channel-coded data bits is also used for channel decoding the at least one mode bit.